



April 2017

We are a people who love messages. ‘Did you get my letter? My email? Text?’ Indeed, we all like to have something to tell. A message is defined as a verbal, written, or recorded communication sent to or left for a recipient. In turn, a message is intended to be heard, heeded, and likely succeeded on to another. Consequently, the content of the message is very important, both by what it is and how it is conveyed.

For us as Catholics and Christians, Easter has a most powerful message: *Christ is Risen!* The fullness and importance of the message is that Jesus intimately knew our human experience, and through being God, was able to conquer sin and destroy death. When taken together, this is why the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ define our identity as the Catholic Church. This is also why our recognition of our identity in the Mass is to be a communal celebration: together we experience Christ in the social community which gathers to worship as God’s people through what was accomplished during the Triduum.

Such becomes the value in having all its members present, each and every Sunday, for where the whole Church is joined in unity, Christ is most present. And where all are gathered, all will receive the one same clear communication of good news. The greatest message of the Church began with a few who saw, would believe, and then pursue the gift that was offered to them. The gift of their Faith is what we and those many before us would then receive.

In these modern times, the Catholic Church, our District, and the community of Edmonton gathered together for Easter continues our identity of who we are and what we can achieve for Christ. This is the incredible power of good news, the purpose of Truth, and all received through the announcement of great joy.

It is the fundamental message I pray and hope all will remember as we go forth: that Christ IS Risen and then to share it by text, email or one-to-one with everyone in an excited ‘**Happy Easter!**’

Very sincerely your servant in Christ,

Fr. Dean Dowle
Edmonton Catholic School District Chaplain